



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending April 22, 2017

Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.

SUMMARY

During the week ending April 22, 2017, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI as reported by Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments dropped. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI also decreased. The proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories decreased for the third consecutive week. A total of 178 specimens tested positive for influenza at the DHMH lab – a majority of those were positive for influenza Type B. There were 58 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 3 respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH. Nationally, influenza activity continued to decrease.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Activity
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

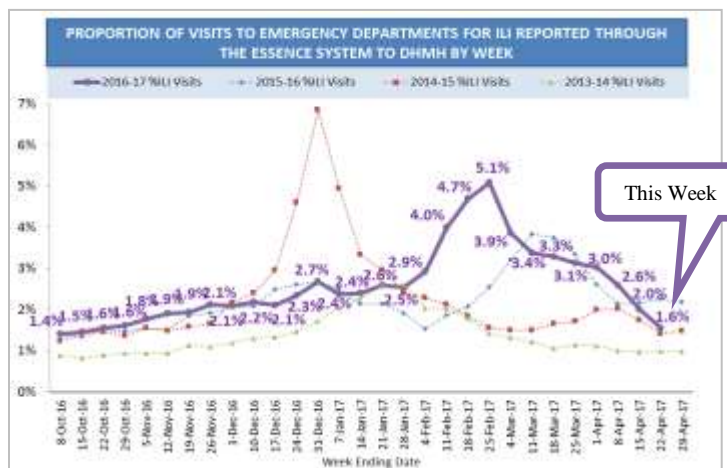
Thirty-four sentinel providers reported a total of 6,415 visits this week. Of those, 101 (1.6%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.2%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	20 (20%)	32 (21%)	1192 (20%)
Age 5-24	31 (31%)	63 (41%)	2666 (44%)
Age 25-49	28 (28%)	31 (20%)	1224 (20%)
Age 50-64	13 (13%)	21 (14%)	665 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	9 (9%)	7 (5%)	346 (6%)
Total	101 (100%)	154 (100%)	6093 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,643 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 712 (1.6%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	170 (24%)	239 (26%)	8900 (26%)
Age 5-24	183 (26%)	255 (28%)	10545 (30%)
Age 25-49	197 (28%)	221 (24%)	8520 (25%)
Age 50-64	92 (13%)	106 (11%)	3819 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	70 (10%)	101 (11%)	2891 (8%)
Total	712 (100%)	922 (100%)	34675 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

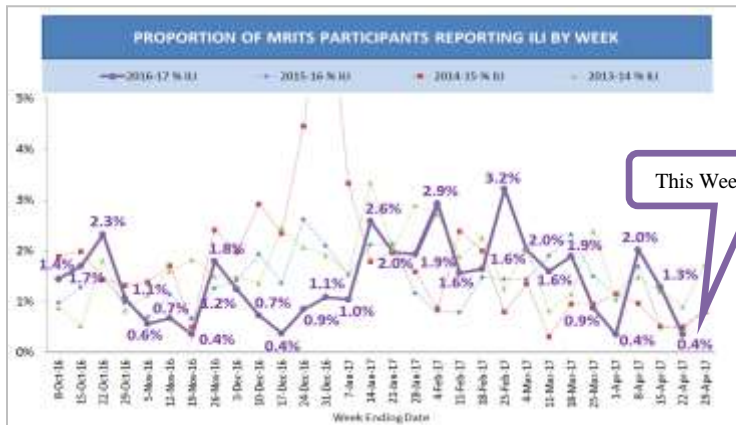
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/I-L/Pages/Influenza.aspx#.V-LtaPkrJD8>
Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/influenza-surveillance/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

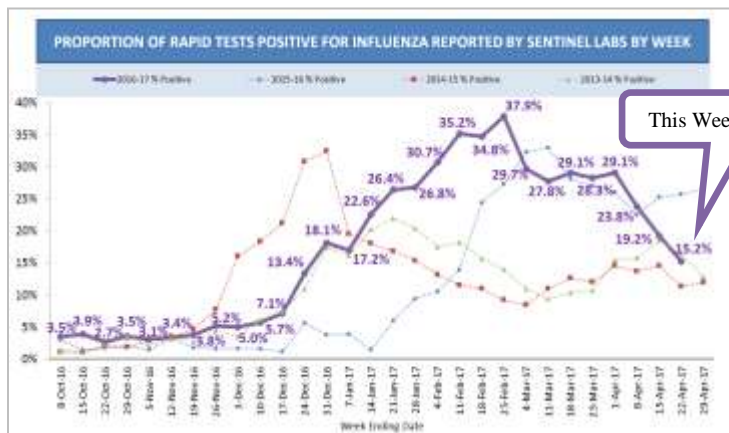
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 562 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 2 (0.4%) reported having ILI, but did not report missing any days of regular daily activities.



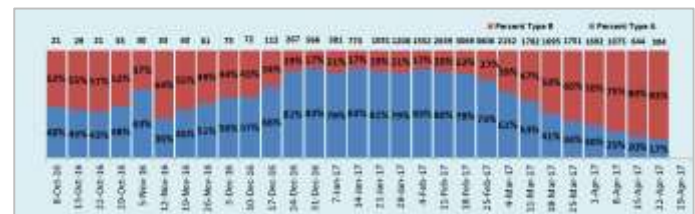
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	8 (3%)
Age 5-24	1 (50%)	2 (29%)	71 (30%)
Age 25-49	--	3 (43%)	56 (24%)
Age 50-64	1 (50%)	2 (29%)	58 (25%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--	41 (18%)
Total	2 (100%)	7 (100%)	234 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Forty clinical laboratories reported performing 1,997 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 304 (15.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 51 (16.8%) were influenza Type A and 253 (83.2%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

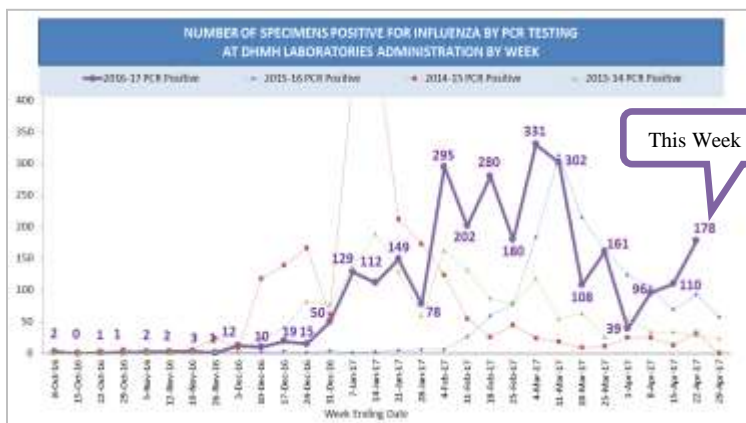


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	51 (17%)	132 (20%)	16797 (62%)
Type B	253 (83%)	512 (80%)	10117 (38%)
Total	304 (100%)	644 (100%)	26914 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 301 PCR tests for influenza and 178 (59.1%) specimens tested positive. Of those testing positive, 58 (32.6%) were positive for Type A (H3), 1 (0.6%) were positive for Type A (H1), 99 (55.6%) were positive for Type B (Yamagata), 19 (10.7%) were positive for Type B (Victoria), and 1 (0.6%) was positive for both Type A (H3) and Type B (Yamagata). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A and lineages of influenza B, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type, subtype, and lineage.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	49 (2%)
Type A (H3)	58 (33%)	43 (39%)	2149 (75%)
Type B (Victoria)	19 (11%)	4 (4%)	99 (3%)
Type B (Yamagata)	99 (56%)	59 (54%)	566 (20%)
Dual - Type A (H3)/ B (Yamagata)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	5 (<1%)
Total	178 (100%)	110 (100%)	2868 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

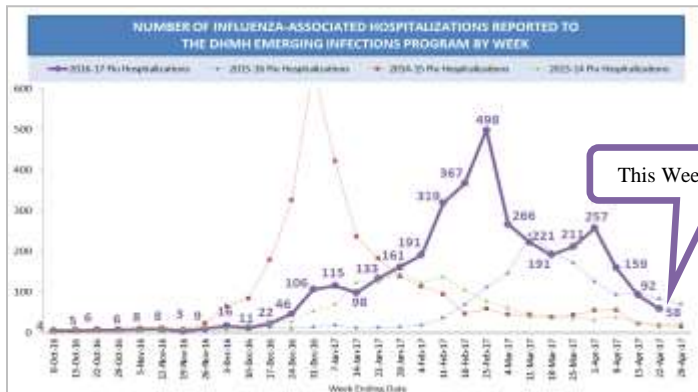
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2016-17 influenza season? Go to <http://phpa.dhmd.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

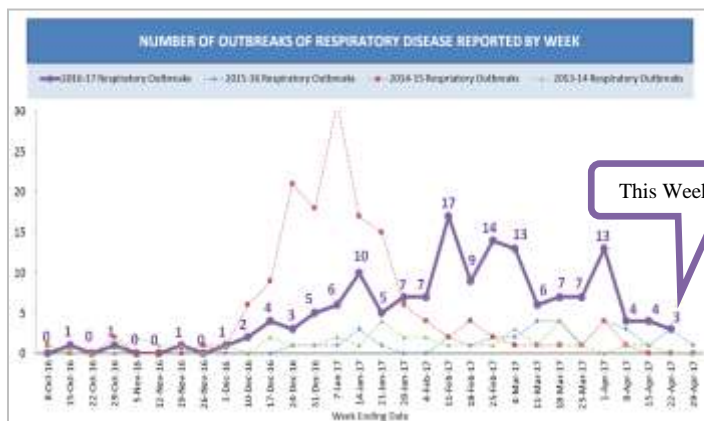
A total of 58 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported this week. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g., RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	3 (5%)	8 (9%)	236 (7%)
Age 5-17	2 (3%)	9 (10%)	236 (7%)
Age 18-24	--	--	97 (3%)
Age 25-49	10 (17%)	7 (8%)	403 (11%)
Age 50-64	13 (22%)	16 (17%)	682 (19%)
Age ≥ 65	30 (52%)	52 (57%)	1933 (54%)
Total	58 (100%)	92 (100%)	3587 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were 3 respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g., from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	3 (100%)	3 (75%)	107 (71%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	34 (23%)
Pneumonia	--	1 (25%)	9 (6%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	3 (100%)	4 (100%)	150 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 16 (April 16-22, 2017), influenza activity decreased in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories during week 16 was influenza B. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories decreased.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** Six influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 62.7 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.8%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. Two of ten regions reported ILI at or above their region-specific baseline levels. Four states experienced low ILI activity; New York City, Puerto Rico, and 46 states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in seven states was reported as widespread; Guam, Puerto Rico and 11 states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia and 19 states reported local activity; 13 states reported sporadic activity; and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported no activity.

